CONFIRMING THE EXISTENCE OF A COMPLETE DATA SET
UNDER MULTIPLE CONTROL SCENARIOS

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5

A verification system is configured to verify the presence of an entire data set before individual data items within the set can be accessed for playback or other processing. Each data item in the data set comprises one or more sections, and the totality of sections constitute the complete data set. Each section of the data set contains a watermark that includes an identifier

10 that confirms the presence of the section as originally recorded. The presence of the data set is confirmed by checking the watermarks of randomly selected sections to verify that the original sections that formed the data set are present, or, by maintaining a record of accessed sections to verify that a substantial portion of the data set is present. To allow for the possible noise-corruption of one or more watermarks, the verification system is configured to allow for a less-

15 than-absolute verification. To allow for an inability to acquire the randomly selected sections on-demand, the verification system is also configured to confirm the presence of the data set based on a receipt of a substantial portion of the data set. The verification system is configured to interact with a recording or other rendering system, such that the content material is stored in a secure format that prevents further access until the verification system provides a key to allow

20 access. In a preferred embodiment, the identifiers are stored as a combination of robust and fragile watermarks.